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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/625,115	07/22/2003	Bjarne Ronfeldt Nielsen	5279.220-US	9394
25908	7590	01/26/2005	EXAMINER	
NOVOZYMES NORTH AMERICA, INC. 500 FIFTH AVENUE SUITE 1600 NEW YORK, NY 10110			PROUTY, REBECCA E	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1652		

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/625,115	NIELSEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Rebecca E. Prouty	1652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-9, 13 and 14 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 10-12 and 15-17 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

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Claims 1-17 are still at issue and are present for examination.

Applicants' arguments filed on 11/17/04, have been fully considered but are deemed to be persuasive to overcome the rejections previously applied.

Claims 1-9, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for methods of saccharifying starch using any glucoamylase having at least 95% amino acid sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:7, does not reasonably provide enablement for methods of saccharifying starch using any glucoamylase having at least 80% (or 90%) amino acid sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:7. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. The rejection is explained in the previous Office Action.

Applicants argue that the glucoamylases recited in the claims are of the same scope as those patented in the parent applications (i.e., US Patents 6,620,934 and 6,255,084) and thus an artisan is enabled to practice the claimed invention.

Applicants disclose both the protein sequence (SEQ ID NO:7) and nucleic acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:6) of the new glucoamylase. Using standard mutagenesis techniques for preparing new

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sequences, an artisan would be able to prepare glucoamylases of the scope recited in the claimed method. Applicants are reminded that every application is examined on its own merits. However, to the extent that the instant rejection might also be applicable to the claims of the issued patents, the instant Office Action contains the signature of the Group Director as required by MPEP 1003. While methods to produce variants of a known sequence such as site-specific mutagenesis, random mutagenesis, etc. are well known to the skilled artisan, producing variants useful as glucoamylases requires that one of ordinary skill in the art know or be provided with guidance for the selection of which of the infinite number of variants have the activity. Without such guidance one of ordinary skill would be reduced to the necessity of producing and testing all of the virtually infinite possibilities. For the rejected claims would clearly constitute **undue experimentation**. Guo et al. teach that the percentage of random single substitution mutations which inactivate a protein for the protein 3-methyladenine DNA glycosylase is 34% and that this number appears to be consistent with other studies in other proteins as well. Guo et al. further show in Table 1 that the percentage of active mutants for multiple mutants appears to be exponentially related to this by the simple formula $(.66)^x \times 100\%$ where x is the number of

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mutations introduced. Applying this estimate to the instant protein 80% identity allows up to 118 mutations within the 591 amino acids of SEQ ID NO:7 and thus only $(.66)^{118} \times 100\%$ or $5.1 \times 10^{-20}\%$ of random mutants having 80% identity would be active. Similarly at 85% identity only $1.3 \times 10^{-14}\%$ would be active, at 90% identity, $3.4 \times 10^{-9}\%$ would be active and at 95% identity $5.8 \times 10^{-6}\%$. Current techniques (i.e., high throughput mutagenesis and screening techniques) in the art would allow for finding a few active mutants within several hundred thousand or up to about a million inactive mutants as is the case for the claims limited to 95% identity (despite even this being an enormous quantity of experimentation that would take a very long time to accomplish) but finding a few mutants within several billion or more as in the claims to 90% or less identity would not be possible. While enablement is not precluded by the necessity for routine screening, if a large amount of screening is required, the specification must provide a reasonable amount of guidance with respect to the direction in which the experimentation should proceed. Such guidance has **not** been provided in the instant specification.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rebecca Prouty, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-0937. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapura Achutamurthy, can be reached at (571) 272-0928. The fax phone number for this Group is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.



Rebecca Prouty
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1652



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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600